

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A method of making an image forming apparatus comprising:

fitting a pair of end plates into axially opposite ends of a drum;
inserting a first shaft into apertures in said end plates;
inserting ends of said first shaft into first holes in a pair of positioning plates; and
inserting ends of a second shaft into second holes in said pair of positioning plates to position said drum at a fixed distance from a developing roller on said second shaft.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method recited in Claim 11 further comprising:
forming at least one flange on said first shaft to restrict movement of one of said end plates.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method recited in Claim 11 wherein said inserting a first shaft into apertures in said end plates includes configuring said drum to rotate freely around said first shaft.

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Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method recited in Claim 11 wherein said inserting a first shaft into apertures in said end plates includes fixing said first shaft to said end plates such that said first shaft and said drum are rotatable integrally.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:
a photoconducting drum unit including:
a first shaft;
a pair of end plates, said first shaft fitted in apertures in said end plates; and
a photoconducting drum, said end plates assembled integrally with said drum;
a developing unit including a developing roller on a second shaft; and
a pair of positioning plates, said positioning ~~position~~ plates including at least a first
and a second hole,
wherein ends of said first shaft are inserted in said first holes of said positioning plates
and ends of said second shaft are inserted in said second holes of said positioning plates to
position said developing roller and said photoconducting drum at a fixed relative distance.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus recited in Claim 15,
further comprising:
at least one flange formed on said first shaft, said at least one flange configured to
restrict movement of one of said end plates.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus recited in Claim 15,
further comprising:
a first gear configured to mate with a driving gear to rotate said first shaft.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus recited in Claim 17,
wherein said first gear is formed integrally with one of said end plates.

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Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus recited in Claim 17,
further comprising:

a second gear on said second shaft, said second gear configured to mate with said first gear, said second gear configured to rotate said second shaft.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus recited in Claim 15,
wherein said drum is configured to be freely rotatable relative to said first shaft.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus recited in Claim 15,
wherein said drum and said first shaft are configured to be rotatable integrally.

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